

AGENDA

Meeting of January 13, 1999
9:00 A.M., 1st Floor Meeting Room
PUC Building, 242 State Street
Augusta, Maine

ROUTINE BUSINESS

1. Minutes of the December 9, 1998 meeting

OLD BUSINESS

2. Campaign Practices Complaint (Tabled from December 9, 1998):
 - A. City of South Portland v. Management Research & Development Association --
Paul A. Volle, President
Alleged failure to register, file campaign finance reports, and include attribution statement on political communications involving municipal referendum
Recommendation: Impose statutory penalty for failure to register as a political action committee, failure to file required campaign finance reports, and failure to include required attribution statements if the Commission determines that MRDA expended funds to engage in express advocacy that was not otherwise excluded from registration and reporting requirements as any "news story, commentary or editorial distributed through the facilities of any . . . newspaper . . . or other periodical publication"
3. Policy Regarding Acceptance of Gifts by Legislators to Avoid Conflicts of Interest
4. Status Report on Penalty Collection Efforts and Discussion of Problems with Delinquent Filers

NEW BUSINESS

5. Late Campaign Finance Reports -- Party Committees:
 - A. Maine Democratic State Committee; James S. Bowers, Treasurer
6-day pre-election CFR -- 1 day late; Due 10/27/98; Received 10/28/98
Penalty: \$1,481.57 (No previous violation)
Recommendation: Mitigate to 50% -- \$740.79
 - B. Brunswick Democratic Town Committee; Priscilla Youmans, Treasurer
6-day pre-election CFR -- 16 days late; Due 10/27/98; Received 11/12/98
Penalty: \$637.44 (No previous violation)
Recommendation: Waive penalty due to lack of notice required by § 1017-A.6 as authorized by § 1020-A.2.C consistent with precedents set 9/28/95 in case involving the Orono Democratic Committee and 11/16/98 involving Old Town Republican City Committee

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6. Late Lobbyist Disclosure Reports:

- A. Douglas S. Carr, lobbyist for Rite Aid Corp.
November 1998 Report, Due 12/15/98; Received 12/21/98
Penalty: \$100.00 (No previous violation)
Recommendation: Mitigate to 50% -- \$50.00
- B. Debra A. Hart, lobbyist for Hannaford Bros. Co., Maine Public Service Co.,
Maine Yankee, and Oxygenated Fuels Ass'n.
November 1998 Reports (4), Due 12/15/98; Received 12/16/98
Penalty: \$400.00 (No pervious violation)
Recommendation: Mitigate to 50% -- \$200.00

7. Executive Session:

- A. Status of lawsuit challenging lobbyist registration fees (*MCOA/MCLU v. Webster, et al.*)
- B. Status of lawsuit challenging the Maine Clean Election Act (*Daggett, et al. v. Webster, et al.*)

ADJOURNMENT